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outworn superstitions." He devotes a whole chapter to "The doctrine of general discipline," and refutes all arguments of men who believe that the perusal of any one subject trains the mind so that it may more clearly grasp another subject. In discussions of mathematics, literature, and history the author tries to prove that only as they relate to the present are they of any value to the pupil.

Most interesting to the historian is his discussion "what is history and why do we want it?" If history cannot predict it can be of little use. "It is continuity of purpose which makes history vital." He would have historians dwell less on the discussion of the facts or events themselves and more on the application of those facts to the present as a preparation for the future. The study should be what might be called "the trial balance conception of history" rather than "the day book method."

The war has disclosed many faults of our educational system. The physical education of the youth has been neglected, our knowledge of agriculture is inadequate, the songs of the land are not well known, our knowledge of the history and the geography of the world has been found to be grossly inadequate and one of the most important lessons is that children cannot safely discontinue their studies at the age of fourteen years.

E. M. D.

The war diary of a diplomat. By Lee Meriwether. (New York: Dodd, Mead and company, 1919. 303 p. \$2.00)

Among the most interesting of recent war books will be found this little volume written by the "Special assistant to the American ambassador to France." Mr. Meriwether speaks with authority, and his accounts of what he has seen and investigated in France, prior to and immediately following our entry into the war, are written with accuracy and in a pleasing style.

Mr. Meriwether's work as an investigator of the conditions of German war prisoners wakens special interest. Apparently he was admirably fitted for such investigation and the entrance of the United States into the war obviously lost to the German prisoners a sympathetic and justice-seeking friend.

Paris during war time was a subject to stimulate every observer into expression of what he saw and felt, and Mr. Meriwether offers many interesting pages from his experience. The indomitable spirit of the French, as ever, stirs the beholder into enthusiasm; while the dark shadow of threatening German *Kultur* brings a sigh of relief that the danger has now been averted.